

Miss McGregor: Is there any routine examination of the water of the city? Do they have routine examination by the Board of Health? We get the water from the city. We have it examined once in awhile, but it is not routine. There was a time when we had the milk examined every two weeks through the Dairy and Food Department. We are not doing that now. Would there be anything gained by having the water examined part of the time, or should one just accept the city reservation?

Dr. Petersen: I imagine it is safe to accept the city reservation, where it is taken care of by the city health authorities. I think in most of the institutions the water supply is well taken care of. Something, of course, might come up. In my opinion the milk supply and food distribution are much more important.

Dr. Patterson: If there is no further discussion we will go on to the next question.

What in the way of clothing should be furnished patients when they leave an institution?

Dr. McBroom, will you answer that?

D. E. McBroom, M.D., Superintendent, Colony for Epileptics: When a patient enters our institution, the county or his parents, whichever one is responsible for him at the time of his admission, must furnish him with three complete outfits of clothing. In addition to that, in the case of the boys, he must have one dress-up or woolen suit of clothes.

Our policy has been to see that at the time of discharge they have the same amount of clothing with which they came in. If their original equipment has been outgrown and is good enough it is passed on to some of the younger generation, and a new outfit is supplied them at the time of their discharge. We try to replace what was brought in with them.

Dr. Patterson: Suppose they did not bring anything in that was satisfactory for them to wear?

Dr. McBroom: We send them out properly clothed, in such a case, but we do not give them any equipment in addition to that.

Dr. Patterson: There are two questions here which we will ask Dr. Freeman to answer. The first is:

Should funds that are not used in providing care for inmates be added to the total cost in determining the per capita cost?

Geo. H. Freeman, M.D., Superintendent, St. Peter State Hospital: If funds are not so used they certainly should not be added to the cost.

Mr. Vevle: In our situation the net per capita cost during the last biennium was \$405.79. The money that was considered in determining the per capita cost included that spent on our agency staff, which takes care of about 700 children in homes. It also included money used in providing board and home care for thirty other children. That was added in the maximum per capita cost. The difference in the two figures is about \$50 a child. If we

eliminate that, it brings the per capita cost to about \$365. If we include it, it brings the per capita cost to \$405.79.

Dr. Freeman: I think you should separate your costs and have one cost cover the institution per capita cost. That would make it clear.

Mr. Vevle: The per capita cost is figured in the Board's office. It is somewhat misleading.

Dr. Freeman: The only reason for having a per capita cost is as a matter of comparison of institutions doing similar work. If it differs, it may be to your credit that it is decidedly more; on the other hand, it may not be to your credit if it is more. Unless all institutions of your type are doing a similar kind of work you cannot make this comparison. If it costs you seven dollars more to feed the inmates of your institution than it does an institution of similar size and type elsewhere, you want to know why it costs you more. If it costs more to heat your institution than it does another institution of similar size, and it is because you are comfortably warm while the inmates of the other institution are freezing, then it is to your credit. Or, that extra cost may be due to the fact that your institution is in a colder climate. I do not think the per capita cost amounts to very much. We fail to make the proper comparison with other states because we do not reckon our repair fund as part of the per capita cost.

Dr. Patterson: The next question is, When reporting the number of acres under cultivation, should hay land and pasture be added to the number of acres under plough, or should only the number of acres under plough be reported?

Dr. Freeman: The number of acres to be reported is those acres that are cultivated. Permanent pasture land which is not broken up should not be included. Your alfalfa field, even if it has been in alfalfa for three years, if it is to be broken up is part of the land under cultivation. What you might call your plough land is to be reckoned as the area under cultivation.

Dr. Patterson: The next question is, What means are used in various institutions to convey mail to the staff as well as to the inmate population?

That question was assigned to Miss Jamieson.

Estelle Jamieson, Superintendent, State Reformatory for Women: Because ours is a small institution our problem probably is not the same as that of the large institutions. All of the mail is brought to my desk and sorted by my secretary or myself. The staff mail is placed on the secretary's desk. Staff members in the building can drop in and pick up their own mail. The matrons in the three cottages receive their mail at noon and at five o'clock. Any officer going through will take it or it is sent by the inmates as they go through. The inmates' mail is turned over to my assistant to be read and registered and is sent to the cottages at five o'clock. Again, an officer may take it or if a girl is going to the cottage we send it by her. A rubber binder is always placed around the mail. No names are visible. It is taken in and handed to the officer, who at the proper time distributes it to the girls.